

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS SAWTOOTH NATIONAL FOREST MINIDOKA RANGER DISTRICT Grazing Year 2021

ALLOTMENTS: OAKLEY VALLEY AND BIG HOLLOW

The following letter will document your meeting with Bob Price and Chris Gee on March 10, 2021 and will serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the 2021 summer grazing season on the Oakley Valley and Big Hollow C&H Allotments. The District Ranger must approve any changes to this AOI.

The following table displays the permitted numbers and seasons of use for the Oakley Valley and Big Hollow Allotments after the Badger Fire. The permitted number is to be spread out among the multiple pastures in Oakley Valley and Big Hollow allotments and grazing standards need to be closely watched.

OAKLEY VALLEY C&H PERMITTED USE

Allotment	Class	Number	Season
Oakley Valley C&H	c/c	400	5/15 - 10/15

OAKLEY VALLEY C&H AUTHORIZED USE

UNITS	Class	Number	Season
Four Mile	c/c	400	5/15 – 10/15
North Water	c/c	400	5/15 – 10/15
Bostetter Units and common use area	c/c	0	5/15 – 10/15
Buck Corral	c/c	0	
Trapper Creek	c/c		use if fence repaired And livestock monitored daily
Rodeo Creek	c/c	0	
See above notes for Buck Corral and Trapper Creek Pastures.			

*This rotation will be for 2021 and 2022 grazing season to allow the badger fire to recover. Livestock will be spread out throughout the allotment based on utilization and are not authorized within burned areas

**BIG HOLLOW C&H
PERMITTED USE**

Allotment	Class	Number	Season
Big Hollow C&H	c/c	100	5/26 - 10/26

**BIG HOLLOW C&H
AUTHORIZED USE**

Unit	No. of Livestock	DATE ON	DATE OFF
Unit 1	100	5/26	10/26
Unit 3*	100	5/26	10/26
Unit 4*	100	5/26	10/26
Unit 2	100	5/26	10/26

*The rotation for the 2021 season will differ due to the badger fire, grazing will be allowed in all units until utilization is met or the off date arrives.

*The Big Hollow units will be the major area of grazing with cattle also grazing the unburnt areas of the Four mile, Trapper Creek and North water pastures. The North Water Pasture will need the electric temporary fence installed and the trapper creek fence must be repaired. The addition of the temporary water locations in the Big Hollow allotment will greatly increase the grazing distribution on that pasture.

Focus Points:

***Map all access roads and salt locations**

***Direct cattle grazing to non-burned areas.**

***Install at a minimum of two emergency water troughs in unit 4 and unit 2 for the 2021 and 2022 seasons. With the possibility of more emergency water locations, all need surveys.**

***Clean up old materials from past reconstruction projects.**

***Continue to work on new water developments in big hollow allotment.**

***Heritage approval for Birch Springs Range Improvement Project. Replacing existing headbox, dropping new trough on existing timbers, blowing out pipeline, and replacing designated portions of pipeline.**

***Cross country salting travel authorized at worm corral, must use different route each usage to minimize risk of road creation.**

The grazing system on this allotment is a deferred rotation. However, after badger fire the rotation will be on a hold pattern for the 2021 and 2022 growing seasons. The old dates are approximate and will be re-evaluated after 2022 growing season for new rotations in 2023

COMPLIANCE:

This AOI is made part of your grazing permit consistent with Part 1, item 3 and Part 2, Item 8(a). Situations may develop during the grazing season which require changes to these instructions, such as delayed range readiness, early achievement of allowable use standards, unit rotation changes related to wildfire or other problems, or other management needs. **If changing pasture move dates becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with any part of these instructions,**

contact your Range Specialist to obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions.

With multiple uses on the forest, gates are often left open and livestock stray into the wrong pasture. We realize this is a problem and an inconvenience. However, it is still your responsibility to keep your animals in the proper unit. Livestock found in the wrong units or allotments should be returned immediately to the correct pasture. Routine checks need to be made by you and/or your rider.

Compliance with all terms of your grazing permit is required. These annual operating instructions are not meant to be stand-alone or all inclusive.

STANDARDS AND GUIDES:

You are responsible for determining when allowable use has been reached and for moving your cattle to the next unit in your rotation or off the allotment to avoid exceeding the standards. The Forest Service is responsible for monitoring your compliance with allowable use standards. The allowable use standards are listed below. If you need assistance with monitoring use, please contact your Range Specialist.

RIPARIAN SITES: Maximum 45% use of grasses, rushes and sedges or a minimum 4-inch stubble height of hydric greenline species, whichever occurs first.

UPLAND SITES: Early season pastures: 40% use of key species. With slow growth of vegetation, after seed ripe, or late season pastures: 50% use of key species (mountain brome, bluebunch wheatgrass, Idaho fescue, squirreltail).

IMPROVEMENTS:

Range improvements listed in Part Three of your grazing permit must be maintained to a proper functioning condition *before livestock enter the allotment*. The maintenance standards listed in Part Three of your term permit must be followed when maintaining the improvements. As a reminder, if you need to use any mechanized machinery (such as tracked equipment), a written authorization from the District Ranger is required prior to use of that machinery. No ground disturbing activities or new construction involving machinery should be conducted on the Forest by you or any of your personnel, without approval in writing from the District Ranger. Materials for reconstruction may be provided by the Forest Service as funding allows. Provision of materials for normal annual maintenance is your responsibility.

Wildlife escape ramps must be installed in troughs, and be in contact with the side of the trough. Contact your Range Specialist to request any wildlife ramps that you need. As a reminder, old materials from development maintenance and replacement need to be cleaned up and removed from your allotments.

PERMITTEE INSTRUCTIONS:

Dead livestock must be moved at least 100 yards from water, roads, campgrounds and trails.

Place salt a minimum of a ¼ mile from water sources and in areas lightly grazed to encourage an even distribution of utilization on the range.

Invasive weeds are becoming a serious threat to the welfare of our rangelands. Your assistance is needed to identify new outbreaks of weed populations and to prevent the establishment of weeds on the forest. Pay particular attention to areas where stock are concentrated such as

loading/unloading areas, water developments and salting areas. Consistent with the Noxious Weed Free Hay Order, any hay or straw that is brought onto National Forest System lands needs to be State-certified weed free. I am requesting that you be a pro-active partner in the prevention of noxious weeds on your allotment(s). All equipment which is used off of open roads for range improvement maintenance, or other management activities should be free of noxious weeds and their seeds prior to coming onto National Forest System lands.

TRAVEL MANAGEMENT AUTHORIZATION:

This direction serves as guidance for grazing permittees' authorization as it relates to the implementation of Travel **TRAVEL MANAGEMENT AUTHORIZATION:**
Management on the Minidoka Ranger District.

Motor vehicle use is authorized on closed roads and trails (non-system routes) for improvement maintenance purposes only. Activities should be planned to avoid high use periods, such as hunting season and weekends, to reduce conflict with the general public. Motorized access in Seasonal Closure areas is not pre-authorized; permission to access these areas must be obtained from the District Ranger prior to entry. Roads and trails that have been physically closed through ripping, barricading, etc. are not authorized for your use, except in the limited instances where there may be structural improvements that need occasional maintenance.

Motor vehicle use off existing roads and trails (cross-country travel) is not authorized. Cross-country travel may be authorized for project-specific purposes only. The District Ranger must authorize these activities in writing in advance of the specific project. **Per Travel Management direction, livestock may not be gathered or herded cross-country with motorized vehicles. Placement of salt using an ATV/UTV off-road (cross-country) is not authorized.** Violation of this direction may result in a fine and Violation Notice or a Notice of Non-Compliance.

BILLING:

The 2021 grazing fee is \$1.35 per head month. The Forest Service is required to give permittees a minimum of 30 days to pay your grazing fees; payment of your grazing bill is due five days prior to your earliest turnout date to allow time for processing. Please pay your bill by the stated due-date. Turnout of livestock prior to confirmation of payment is a violation of Part 2, Clause 3 of your term grazing permit. **You may make payment in one of three ways:**

I. Mail your payment the National Finance Center (NFC) at:

USDA Forest Service
C/O US Bank
P.O. Box 6200-09
Portland, OR 97228-6200

You must include the Bill Number and Payer Code number on your check.

II. Or, pay your bill online at: WWW.FS.FED.US/BILLPAY. Save your receipt of payment.

III. Or, pay your bill between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:30 pm via check, cash or money order at the Ranger District office.

Contact Courtney Keith, Support Services Supervisor at the Minidoka Ranger District (208)677-0430 if you have questions about paying your bill online.

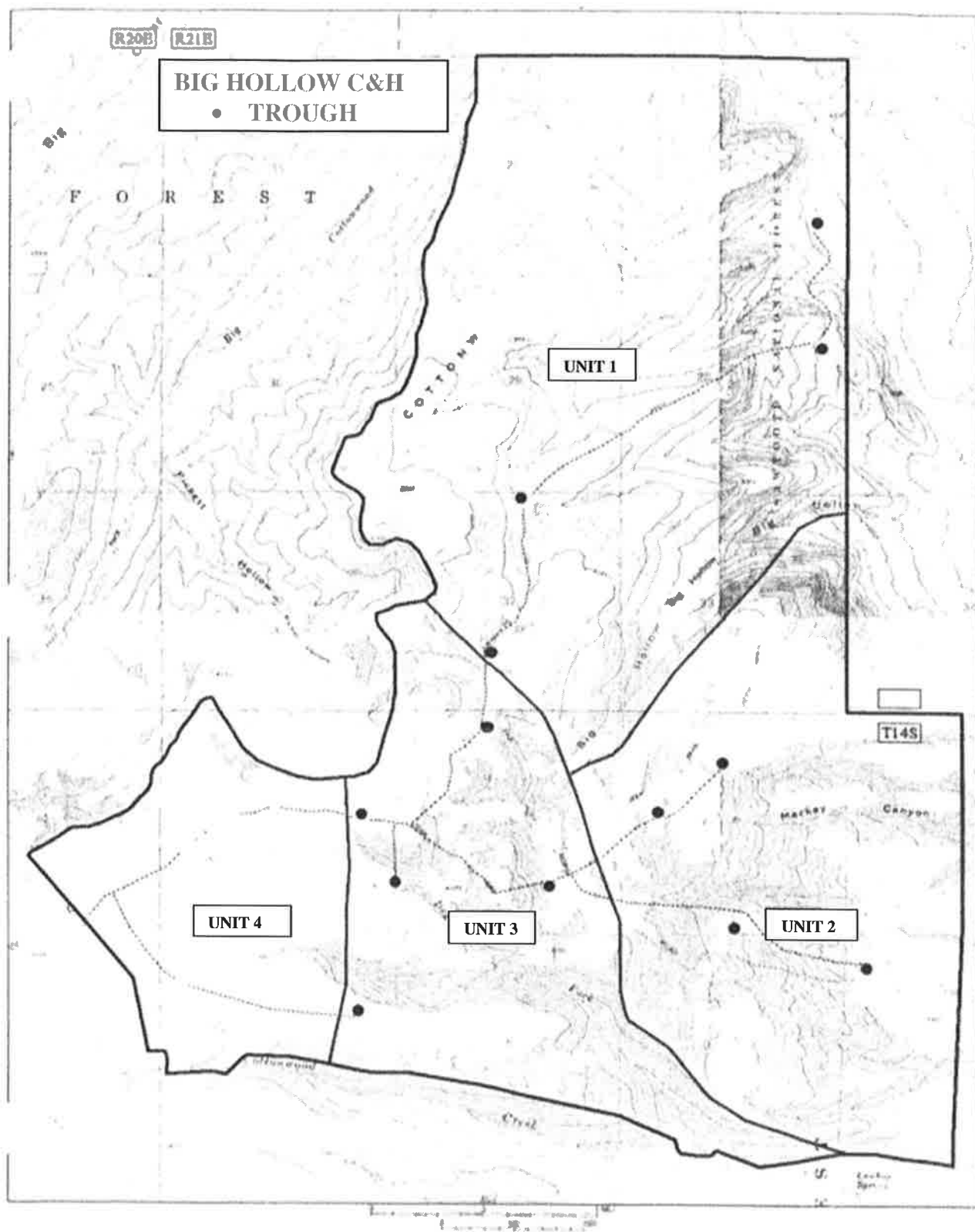
OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

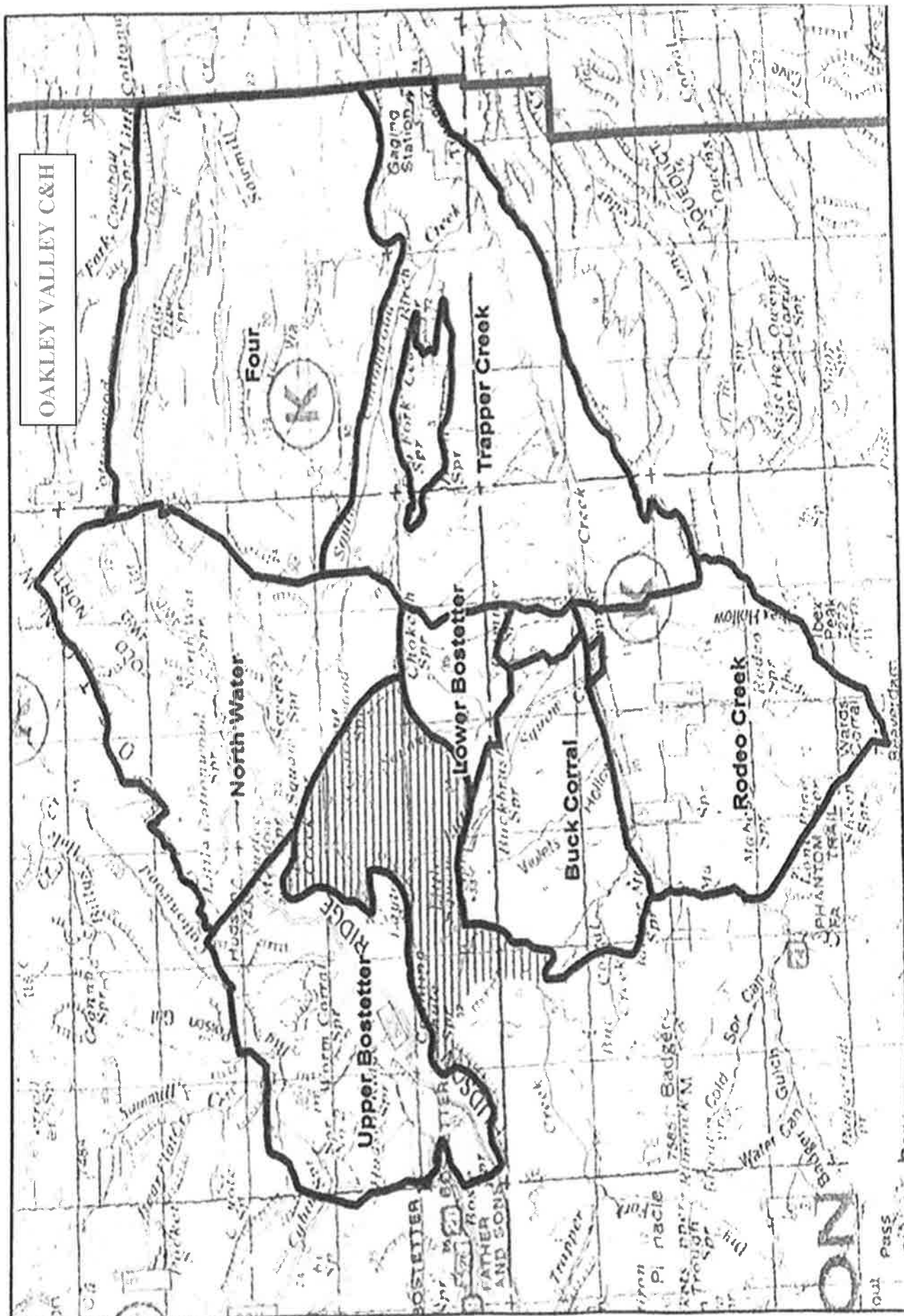
As a reminder, requests for personal convenience non-use must be submitted in writing; approval is not automatic and the authorized officer should discuss the reasons for the non-use request with the permittee. Full or partial personal convenience non-use may be approved by the District Ranger for no more than three consecutive years and not more than four years in any tenyear period.

If you are planning to waive your Term Grazing Permit based on either sale of permitted livestock or base property, please submit this intention in writing, with ample notice, to the District Ranger prior to the transaction.

Actual use and range improvement maintenance forms have been included for you to complete and return at the end of the grazing season. Please use these forms to track your livestock management and range improvement work throughout the grazing season. Your cooperation with this is greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions or concerns about this grazing season, please call Bob Price at (208) 677-8290.





2021

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Oakley Valley

MINIDOKA RANGER DISTRICT

Recommended by: _____ Date: _____

Rangeland Management Specialist

Accepted by: _____ Date: _____

Permittee

Approved by: Rory A. Sherry Date: 5/13/2021

District Ranger

Please sign and date this cover sheet and return to my office. Upon signature by the District Ranger, these Annual Operating Instructions are hereby made a part of your Term Grazing Permit.

2021

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Big Hollow

MINIDOKA RANGER DISTRICT

Recommended by: _____ Date: _____

Rangeland Management Specialist

Accepted by: _____ Date: _____

Permittee

Approved by: Rory A Sherry Date: 5/13/2021

District Ranger

Please sign and date this cover sheet and return to my office. Upon signature by the District Ranger, these Annual Operating Instructions are hereby made a part of your Term Grazing Permit.

